

Bodger secures place in last 8

By MICHAEL KNOX Wycombe Wanderers 3, Boreham Wood 2

TWO goals by Tony Horseman took Wycombe Wanderers into the last eight of the Rothmans Isthmian League Subsidiary Cup at Loakes Park on Tuesday night after an entertaining 3-2 victory over Borehamwood. In the quarter-finals Blues will be away to either Chesham United or Woking.

The disappointing fact about Tuesday night's game was that a crowd of only 550 watched an exciting encounter in which Wanderers surrendered a 2-0 lead before snatching the winner 10 minutes from time.

Boreham Wood are one of the in-form teams in Division Two having pulled themselves up to sixth position with only two defeats in the past 14 games. It was not difficult to see why this ambitious club is on the way up.

Their aggressive style of play is likely to force their opponents into errors and in leading scorer Micky Jackson and winger Malcolm Skingle they have two top class forwards who would hold their own in Division One.

Ricky George, the man who got Hereford's historic winner over Newcastle United was out through injury. But they still had enough power upfront to cause Wanderers a few problems.

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But that was nothing like the pummelling Wanderers gave to a supposedly strong Wood defence — especially in the first 15 minutes. Bruce Macrae, recovering quickly from his ankle injury,

against Djurgardens on Thursday night, looked very sharp and it was his clever partnership with Horseman that swung the game Wycombe's way.

Apart from one low shot from Jackson which John Maskell saved at the third attempt the first half belonged to Wycombe and they could have built up a three goal lead during this time had they taken their chances.

'Bodger' Horseman, of all people, wasted a splendid chance when delaying his effort from little more than six yards and Macrae forced a fine save out of goalkeeper Steve Waller who enjoyed a fine game.

But he did make one important error which was enough to give Wycombe a 14th minute lead. Horseman sent Macrae away down the left. The young striker crossed with his left foot into the goalmouth and to his astonishment saw the ball arc over Waller's outstretched arms into the far corner of the net — an extraordinary and unlikely goal.

Wanderers lost a little of their early sparkle but still dominated the game territorially with Paul Birdseye and the recovered Ray Eaton making strong advances upfield. The reward for this pressure came in the 39th minute with the second goal.

The score followed hectic goalmouth action in which both Horseman and John Delaney had seen shots blocked or half-saved by Waller. The ball eventually reached Macrae out on the left edge of the penalty area. He crossed into the goalmouth where Horseman stabbed the ball home from close range.

This goal appeared to have secured Blues' place in the quarter-finals for not many teams, yet alone those from the Second Division, came back from two goals behind at Loakes Park. Yet Wood, to their credit did just that.

They hit back immediately with a 40th minute goal. Poor Maskell, who must have been frozen stiff due to lack of action on a bitterly cold night, was to blame. He failed to hold Jackson's low angled shot and Jeff Batten nipped in to plant the ball into the back of the net.

Wycombe created two great chances to increase their lead immediately after the break. Mick Holifield, pushed into the attack, saw a shot well saved by Waller while Howard Kennedy fired wide from 12 yards.

They paid for these mistakes in the 58th minute when The Wood equalised to the delight of their small band of fans. Skingle crossed into the penalty area, Sedgwick won the ball easily in the air and the unmarked Jackson nodded the ball inside the right hand post with Maskell apparently rooted to the spot.

The visitors were not afraid to use their muscle and Skingle was lucky not to be booked by the referee for a nasty tackle on Birdseye.

As Wycombe struggled to find a path to goal the cry went up from their fans, "We want Dylan, we want Dylan." Whether they were just shouting to keep warm, I do not know. But Brian Lee yielded to their demands and Evans replaced Howard Kennedy with 13 minutes to go.

With virtually his first kick of the game, Evans had a hand, although a tenuous one, in Wycombe's winning goal in the 80th minute. He lobbed the ball into the penalty area, Macrae won it in the air and placed his header straight into the path of Horseman who netted a superb goal from the narrowest of angles.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; P. Birdseye, R. Eaton, D. Bullock, J. Delaney, T. Reedon, M. Holifield, H. Kennedy (sub: D. Evans 77 mins), D. Alexander, A. Horseman.

BOREHAM WOOD: S. Waller; J. Howard, G. Dawes, M. Bevans (J. Morris 70 mins), R. Rosser, J. Sneddon, C. Duggan, E. Sedgwick, M. Jackson, M. Skingle, J. Batten.

Referee: P. Wrennall (Burnham).

Attendance: 550.

Half-time 2-1. **Scorers:** Wycombe — Macrae (14 mins), Horseman (39, 80); Borehamwood Batten (40), Jackson (58).